

Invitation Field Day Valais

Friday, September 24, 2021

Supported by Swiss NGO DRR Platform Member Organization “FDDM”
(Fondation pour le développement durable des régions des montagnes)

In the framework of the Activity Line 3 “Nature-based Solutions”, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform invites you to a field day to the mountains in Valais, Switzerland. Against the background of the platform’s efforts to develop a platform signature approach on Nature-based Solutions, the goal of the field day is to achieve a better understanding of Switzerland-specific measures, strategies and research projects in the field of ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Questions about climate change and biodiversity, particularly in relation to forest and water management, will be discussed during visits to research sites and intervention areas in the beautiful Champex-Lac area.

The tentative agenda items are the following:

- **Champex-Lac [Flore-Alpe Botanical Garden](#)**

Since 1991, the scientific research of the Botanical Garden in Champex-Lac, under the direction of Dr. Christophe Randin, aims to better understand the relationships between high mountain ecosystems and the environment. The research deals in particular with the impact of climate change on the environment, as well as on the rise of the upper forest limit. Dr. Christophe Randin will provide a presentation on the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity, the aspects that have to be considered to better integrate biodiversity aspects in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts, and how biodiversity interventions and impacts can be monitored. Dr. Randin will further take us to their research and monitoring sites for irrigation practices on terraced grasslands and pastures.

The visit of the Botanical Garden will also provide the opportunity to pass through an [art exhibition by Laurence Piaget-Dubuis](#), which illustrates the relationship between man and alpine plants in 40 impressive photographs.

- **Forest Research and Protection Forests**

Switzerland has a long history of using forests as a protection from various natural hazards, ranging from landslides to avalanches. Close to Champex-Lac we will visit a forest site used for research purposes and learn about the evolution of the forest in the

face of climate change. Back at Champex-Lax, Dr. Christine Moos, scientist at the university of Lausanne, will give a presentation on protection forests and elaborate on her research on risk-based quantification of Eco-DRR measures, in particular the quantification of the effect of forests against rockfall in the face of climate change. If time allows Christine Moos will provide us with a few insights on valuation methods for ecosystem-based interventions in general.

- **Water Management and River Renaturation**

In the afternoon we will hopefully be able to meet with the Cantonal Water Department to present the area's watershed management strategy as well as the revitalization measures of nearby rivers (alternatively, the Forestry Department will be contacted).

The goal is to facilitate a discussion on the cost-effectiveness of ecosystem-based measures compared to infrastructural measures, and how environmental, economic and social costs and benefits have been considered by public authorities (including trade-offs and synergies).

Arrival/departure (tentative):

- 08:07 Bern → 09:47 arrival in **Martigny**
- 10:00 Bus to Champex-Lac (organized, 30 min)
- Lunch at Le Jardin Alpin Botanical Garden
- Around 16:00/17:00: Bus back to Martigny

Accommodation option:

As we are visiting the Botanical Garden we would have the option to rent the Chalet that forms part of the Botanical Garden (offers space for 10-15 people). A personal sleeping bag is required. Please inform Arabela Philipona in case you are interested to stay for a night or the weekend. For more information, visit here: <https://www.flore-alpe.ch/fr/locations/>

